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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/656,464	09/05/2003	Glen S. Axclrod	TFH047	8440
32047	7590	11/14/2005	EXAMINER	
GROSSMAN, TUCKER, PERREAULT & PFLEGER, PLLC 55 SOUTH COMMERCIAL STREET MANCHESTER, NH 03101			COLE, ELIZABETH M	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1771		

DATE MAILED: 11/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	10/656,464	
Examiner	AXELROD, GLEN S.	
Elizabeth M. Cole	Art Unit 1771	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-5, 8-14 and 16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5, 8-14, 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some *
 - c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: ____.

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1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8/29/05 has been entered.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-5, 8-14, 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Denesuk et al, U.S. Patent NO. 6,196,156 in view of Jordan, U.S. Patent No. 5,226,384. Denesuk et al discloses an article for use by pets comprising a core which may comprise foam or other types of fillers such as synthetic and natural fibers, (col. 10, lines 28-41) and a fabric cover. The fabric cover may comprise two different types of fabric and each type of fabric only partially covers the core. See col. 10, line 60 – col. 11, line 7 and col. 11, lines 38-46 as well as example 4. Suitable fabrics include polyolefins, acetate, acrylic, nylons and polyesters. See col. 11, line 65 – col. 12, line 4. The fabrics can be woven, non-woven or knitted. See col. 9, lines 31-43. Denesuk differs from the claimed invention because Denesuk does not teach that at least one of the fibers should be a high strength fiber. Jordan teaches that high strength fibers such

as aramid fibers can be used in forming covers for articles used by pets. See abstract. Therefore, it would have been obvious to have employed high strength fibers for parts of the cover of Denesuk which would be most exposed to wear and tear, biting, chewing, etc., motivated by the expectation that this would enhance the durability of the bed.

4. Applicant's arguments filed 8/29/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Denesuk is not concerned with preventing tearing, but rather with forming the material of a non-toxic material so that when it is torn it would not harm the animal because Denesuk is not concerned with forming a durable pet bed. However, Denesuk clearly is concerned with forming a durable bed since Denesuk teaches applying antimicrobial agents to the materials making up the beds in order to guard against physical and chemical degradation of the materials in order to form an article having a longer useful life. See col. 4, lines 1-8. Further, the non-toxic materials referred to at col. 8 are not the fabric components of the bedding but rather the anti-microbial coating which is applied to the fabric. Thus, Denesuk is not teaching forming a bed for a pet to eat, but is rather teaching that when applying an anti-microbial composition in order to enhance the useful life of the bed that is important for the anti-microbial composition to be non-toxic since animals tends to chew on bedding articles. The teachings of Denesuk are therefore readily combinable with the teachings of Jordan of employing high strength fibers in forming covers for use by pets, since Jordan teaches a way of further enhancing the useful lifetime of a pet bedding article by employing high strength fabrics as covers. Therefore, the rejection is maintained.

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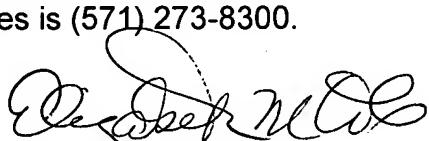
5. With regard to the 112 1st paragraph rejections set forth in the previous rejection, Applicant's arguments are persuasive and that rejection is withdrawn.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elizabeth M. Cole whose telephone number is (571) 272-1475. The examiner may be reached between 6:30 AM and 6:00 PM Monday through Wednesday, and 6:30 AM and 2 PM on Thursday.

Mr. Terrel Morris, the examiner's supervisor, may be reached at (571) 272-1478.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

The fax number for all official faxes is (571) 273-8300.



Elizabeth M. Cole
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1771

e.m.c